

# Release Fails to End the Mystery Of N.J. Woman Jailed by Czechs

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Washington, June 26— Although her imprisonment remains shrouded in mystery, Mrs. Helen Kozeradsky has not recanted the guilty plea she made to an espionage charge in Communist Czechoslovakia.

Mrs. Kozeradsky, who returned to the U. S. on Monday night, admitted to a State Dept. official who interviewed her in a Czech jail that she had violated local espionage laws.

During the entire three years that she languished in a cell, however, she never was permitted to see an American without having a Czech within listening distance.

**Back in Country**

Her friends pointed out that she still has members of her family in Czechoslovakia, the country of her birth. Any public challenge of the verdict that imprisoned her, it was felt, might endanger their lives.

The CIA and the State Dept.

have both denied knowledge of secret imprisonment of a U. S. citizen. Czech authorities refused to produce either a statement of charges or a transcript of the trial.

Mrs. Kozeradsky's son, Michael, 23, called his mother "politically naïve." Other friends said she was the kind of woman whose enthusiasm might get her into trouble.

The 52-year-old Passaic, N. J., woman went to Czechoslovakia in May, 1960, ostensibly to buy furniture for a small business she ran from her home. It was her seventh trip since the war.

In February, 1961, her family notified Rep. Joelson (D-N. J.) that they had not heard from her since shortly after her arrival in Prague. Joelson took up the matter with the State Dept.

Pursuing the case, U. S. diplomats learned that Mrs. Kozeradsky, who had been a U. S. citizen, had been in jail on Sept. 23, 1960.

Though the State Dept. protested both the arrest and the

citizen, Czech authorities refused to produce either a statement of charges or a transcript of the trial.

Finally, the Czechs consented to visits to Mrs. Kozeradsky by a member of the U. S. Embassy in Prague, but only when a Czech was present. The U. S. official was forbidden to ask Mrs. Kozeradsky questions about her case.

## Clemency Plea

Joelison, meanwhile, continued to pepper the Czech Embassy here with requests for reconsideration of the verdict. His letters went unanswered. Early this year, he changed his request to a simple plea for clemency.

Three weeks ago, the Czech ambassador invited the Congressman to lunch. Though he was noncommittal, Joelison found him encouraging. Then without a word of explanation, Mrs. Kozeradsky was released on Monday.



Press Photo  
Mrs. Helen Kozeradsky with husband, John (I), and their children, Helen and Michael.